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FLOOR DEBATE

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automatically disqualify one from being deemed a relative. That's all we're talking about here, is the definition of "relative." By adding this language to the definition, it does not take away the power of the court to consider suitability, but by adding this language there cannot be an automatic determination of disqualification based on sexual orientation, or, by going through the backdoor, a determination that a person should not be deemed a relative. That's what my amendment would offer, and I think my amendment is reasonable. Let me ask the primary sponsor a question, if he is...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...near.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman, are you available for a question? Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Yes, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Erdman, have you had a chance to discuss this proposed amendment with anybody in whom you have confidence on this particular subject?

SENATOR ERDMAN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And did they have an opinion about this amendment?

SENATOR ERDMAN: The opinion that we arrived at together was, is that, to accomplish the purposes of LB 54, it's not necessary to have the definition of "relative" in it, and I believe that if we would strike that it would still allow for the process that's in place to do that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm not asking about that. I'm asking about my amendment.

SENATOR ERDMAN: I would be opposed to your amendment, Senator Chambers, because I don't necessarily see the need for it.